



BIG SKY LIBRARIES

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY



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participant.*

Gates Summer Institutes & Fall Workshop

MSL will host three free **Gates Summer Institutes** in 2002 with funds awarded from a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Training Program Grant for State Libraries. Grant funds will be used to pay travel expenses, accommodations and meals for participants.

Each Institute will present three days of training to public library staff.

Sites and dates include:

- MSU-Bozeman, June 11-13;
- U of M-Missoula, July 9-11; and
- MSU-Billings, August 6-8.

Training will be divided into Basic and Advanced tracks. The Basic Track will include:

- Internet Skills–BCR trainers
- Using the Internet for Reference–BCR trainers
- Building a User-Friendly Web Site–BCR trainers
- Maximizing Public Access Software–BCR trainers
- Teaching the Internet to Groups and Individuals–BCR trainers
- Network Management Skills–MSL Staff

The Advanced Track will include:

- Internet Skills and Using the

Internet for Reference–BCR trainers

- Refining a Library Web Site–BCR trainers
- Maximizing Public Access Software [more advanced version of Basic Track]–BCR trainers
- Teaching the Internet to Groups and Individuals [same as Basic Track]–BCR trainers
- Network Management Skills–MSL Staff

For more details, see: <http://msl.state.mt.us/ldd/Gates/GSletter.pdf>.

MSL's fourth annual **Fall Workshop** is scheduled for September 20-21 on the campus of Carroll College in Helena. It will be open to librarians and staff from all types of libraries. There is no registration fee. The workshop is funded by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds and administered by the MSL Commission and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Details on registration and accommodations will be announced in future FOCUS issues.

Contact Sue Jackson at 1-800-338-5087 or sujackson@state.mt.us.



Karen Strege
State Librarian

A Word From Our State Librarian

Spring is the season of revitalization. During a recent trip to Prague, I experienced a renewal of sorts regarding the importance of access to information. The walls of Prague were covered by graffiti. This graffiti was less “arty” than the embroidered words and symbols that I see on train cars in Helena or in bigger cities.

In Prague, the words and phrases are not embellished and not as interesting ascetically. Knowing limited Czech, (beer, thank you, hello, and please), I also did not understand the meaning of most of the graffiti, except for the all-American, (or all Anglo-Saxon) four-letter word with a variety of amusing suffixes, including “ly” and “ies.” I also understood graffiti that consisted only of the names of various U.S. companies, such as J.

Crew, but again, the meaning escaped me. Was this advertising, or a longing for a Prague outlet, or a condemnation of capitalism?

In an otherwise clean city, the tolerance of graffiti seemed out-of-place, until my son explained that the government was reluc-

tant to criminalize or erase graffiti, because the government views any suppression of free speech as obsessive. They fear they will repeat their history, which is punctuated by periods of intellectual repression.

One of these periods was the Nazi occupation, during which several librarians were imprisoned, and thousands of books were purged from Czech libraries. The end of this occupation only meant the imposition of a different type of ideology that led to purges of other types of books and further persecution of librarians. For a more detailed description of the library and its role in Czech history, go to <http://www.mlp.cz/eng/history.htm>.

The current Municipal library in Prague was extensively remodeled between 1996 and 1998, and is a spacious building, filled with patrons, collections, and computers.

The role of the library in Czech history makes the display of books in the vestibule of the library especially moving. Arranged in a circle, the free-standing, stacked books reach to the ceiling. The interior space of the structure is empty and illuminated by lights placed in the center. This sculpture is a powerful

symbol of intellectual freedom and the vitality of the word. Books retain their symbolic meaning in the Czech Republic.

Our circumstances are too diverse to draw an exact parallel between the plight of libraries in the Czech Republic from 1945 to 1998 and the current situation facing libraries in the U.S. However, Czech history reminds us that libraries are essential in a free society and are one of the first targets of totalitarians.

U.S. librarians do not face governmental orders to purge whole collections, but history reminds us why librarians recently vigorously protested when the government asked us to remove one piece of “sensitive” information. The concern of parents about what their children view on the Internet does not foretell the dismantling of constitutional protections of intellectual freedom, but librarians loudly object when the government tries to mandate restricted access. My trip to Prague reminded me of why librarians are on the front lines of preserving intellectual freedom and strengthened my commitment to ensure that libraries offer unfettered access to all.

Karen's Schedule

June 11, 12 —

Commission Meeting in Havre

August 7 —

Commission Meeting in Missoula

September

12, 13 — BCR Meeting in Denver

October 4 —

COSLA Meeting in Boston



Karen in the vestibule of the Municipal Library in Prague.

Commissioners Corner

Opportunity and Responsibility by Al Randall

When WLN LaserCat came to Montana fifteen years ago, few of us realized that we were in the process of moving from our stand-alone card catalogs to developing a statewide electronic database of Montana library holdings. These electronic holdings would be the beginning of true resource sharing in Montana and the beginning of leveling the playing field for library patrons across the state. From Yaak to Ekalaka, people would be able to access the same library information that was available to people from Missoula to Billings. Of course, opportunity travels with responsibility.

The first responsibility was to not leave anyone behind. The many rounds of LaserCat grants and the introduction of the first computers into many of our libraries - at a time when some libraries still had no telephone - forced a real change in the way we did business. However, this was nothing compared to the challenge of the second responsibility.

To make statewide resource sharing work, everyone had the responsibility to add their holdings to the shared WLN database. This meant the smallest libraries as well as the largest. It was no easy task to convince librarians, trustees, and school boards that small library budgets should be paying to add their resources to a database so that someone else could borrow the item. It took hard facts. At Libby High School, I showed the

school board that my collection of 9,000 items could suddenly expand to one of 450,000. And it only got larger each year as more libraries added their holdings until the LaserCat CD-ROM product topped out at 5 million items.

Just when we were all getting comfortable with what we thought was the status quo, WLN folded into OCLC. As the dust has settled, we are once again faced with opportunity and responsibility.

This new opportunity involves online access to OCLC's services and databases - including WorldCat. This has brought us a ten-fold increase in available data (five million titles with WLN to nearly fifty million titles with OCLC), which finally allows us to fulfill our promise to all of our library patrons **of offering them the world right here in Montana!** Add our present access to thousands of magazine titles and pamphlets through our statewide contracts, toss in the Montana Shared Catalog and Montanaiana (all of which can be done from home as well as at the local library) and it is easy to see that this is an opportunity not to be missed. To quote the Information Cowboy, Bruce Newell:

- ◆ Libraries of all types are linked by overlapping service communities, common needs, and shared activities.
- ◆ Some library activities work best scaled-up to a statewide (or larger) level.

- ◆ And, all Montanans require quality library materials and services.

Membership in OCLC is a unique cooperative venture in the world's largest library consortium. Our networking has expanded, but interestingly enough, our responsibilities have stayed much the same. We are involved in the only game in town and so it is very important that we still do not leave anyone behind. If our Montana libraries are going to make a difference, they have to do what they do the best - connect their users to information.

We also face the same responsibility in belonging to OCLC as we did belonging to WLN. We must contribute all new bibliographic and holdings information, which represents newly cataloged items in our collections, if we are going to successfully develop quality resource sharing programs here in Montana. This still means the smallest libraries as well as the largest. To quote the Information Cowboy one more time, **"The bottom line is that we gain more when we share our records."**



Al Randall,
MSL Commissioner

2001 Collection Management Honor Roll

The Montana State Library Commission has recognized 50 libraries that successfully fulfilled its collection management criteria and demonstrated a long-term commitment to building a shared database in Montana. These libraries have current and approved collection management policies on file at MSL and have at least 50% of their holdings on the OCLC/WLN database. The 2001 Honor Roll was announced by Rosemary Garvey, Commission Chair, at the awards luncheon during the Montana Library Association Conference in Great Falls in April. Each library received a Collection Management Honor Roll certificate from the Commission to acknowledge this achievement.

Public Libraries

Fallon County Library in Baker
 Belgrade Community Library
 Parmly Billings Library in Billings
 Bozeman Public Library
 Butte-Silver Bow Public Library
 Wedsworth Memorial Library in Cascade
 Blaine County Library in Chinook
 Bicentennial Library in Colstrip
 Conrad Public Library
 Glacier County Library in Cut Bank
 William K. Kohrs Memorial Library in Deer Lodge
 Dillon City Library
 Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis
 Fairfield-Teton Public Library
 Glasgow City County Library
 Glendive Public Library
 Great Falls Public Library
 Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton
 Harlem Public Library
 Havre-Hill County Library
 Lewis & Clark Public Library in Helena
 Preston Hot Springs Town County Library
 Flathead County Library in Kalispell
 Lewistown Public Library

Lincoln County Public Library in Libby
 Miles City Public Library
 Missoula Public Library
 Plains District Library
 Sheridan County Library in
 Plentywood
 Ronan City Library
 Sidney Public Library
 Valier Public Library
 West Yellowstone Public Library
 Wibaux Public Library



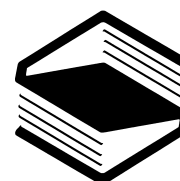
Academic

Rocky Mountain College Library in Billings
 University of Montana – Western Library in Dillon
 Dawson Community College Library in Glendive
 MSU College of Technology – Great Falls Library
 University of Great Falls Library
 Montana State University – Northern Library in Havre
 Helena College of Technology of the UM Library
 Flathead Valley Community College Library in Kalispell
 Salish-Kootenai College Library in Pablo
 Fort Peck Community College Tribal Library in Poplar



School Libraries

Eureka Elementary K-8 School Library
 Dawson County High School Library in Glendive
 Flathead High School Library in Kalispell
 Libby High School Library
 Park High School Library in Livingston
 Sidney High School Library



Shared Catalog's Data Loading, Training

The Montana Shared Catalog's (MSC) initial data load yielded 398,000 unique bibliographic records from 572,000 bibliographic records. MSC librarians have met the myriad deadlines with efficiency and good cheer.

April and May were busy for the seventeen MSC member libraries. They completed data mapping and conversion. That is, they've redefined their current record data structures to conform with SIRSI's, and have looked over their bibliographic records, and in some cases their patron records as well, then shipped them off to SIRSI for data conversion.

The Unicorn application is installed on the State's big server installation in Helena, and test data has been loaded awaiting the upcoming classes. Kudos for all involved in this classic 'five minute project', in particular Bill McClendon and Wendy Pemberton from SIRSI, and Tony Noble and Scott Bryson from the State Information Services Division.

Training sessions for MSC staff members will be presented by SIRSI in Missoula, Kalispell, and Helena. Training will include searching, circulation, cataloging, acquisitions, and serials control.

Many MSC members have to re-bar code their collections, or need to bar code them for the first time. "We work with giants," proclaimed Bruce Newell, after hearing librarians' positive and determined responses to the news that their collections needed to be re-bar coded. "It is a rare privilege to work with such people."

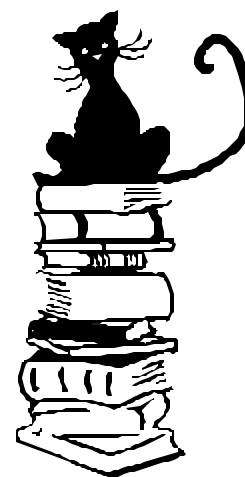
MSC Member's Council meets in Missoula May 29. All are welcome to attend.

The MSC has four working groups: Users & Circulation; Technical Services; OPAC & System Administration; and Training. Each working group plays a major role in the implementation process. There is also an Implementation Team overseeing the creation of the new catalog.

The MSC is expected to go live during the week of July 29.



"We work with giants," proclaimed Bruce Newell, after hearing librarians' positive and determined responses to the news that their collections needed to be re-bar coded.



ILL Reimbursement and New E-Course

The ILL reimbursement forms have been mailed to Montana libraries that previously participated in the program and to those who requested forms. Forms are due to MSL by July 15. The program reimburses eligible Montana libraries for loaning materials to other eligible Montana libraries. The reimbursement rate is calculated by dividing the total funds available by the number of eligible loans. If need the forms, please contact Tristen Shinnick at 1-800-338-5087 or tshinnick@state.mt.us.

ILL competency certification is a requirement of the reimbursement program. Staff who have participated in previous competency training have fulfilled the requirement. However, if your library has new

ILL staff, there are several options for meeting the competency requirement:

1. view the ILL training video (available from MSL);
2. complete the ILL self assessment tool (available from MSL); or
3. complete the new ILL e-course.

We're very excited about this new online training course, which will soon be completed by MSL staff, primarily Tracy Cook. Those interested in ILL training are encouraged to watch for the course under the "What's New" category at: <http://msl.state.mt.us>. Librarians completing the course can receive certification credit for the training. Contact Sue Jackson at 1-800-338-5087 or sujackson@state.mt.us.



Big Sky Libraries

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://msl.state.mt.us>

Spotlight: Kathy Madison, Technical Services Assistant

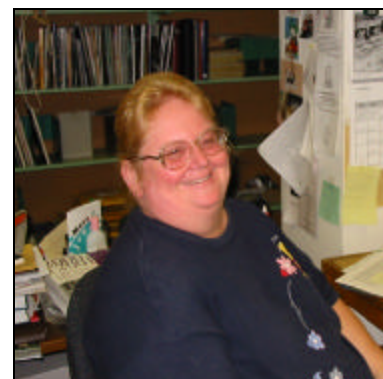
Kathy Madison moved to Montana from Wisconsin in 1978. She started her work at MSL as a shelving clerk in 1994. After two years, she was promoted to technical services clerk. Kathy says, "I took on one of my favorite parts of the library, periodicals." She mastered the new automation system, installed in 1996, which allowed her to predict arrival times for more than 600 periodicals.

In 2002, Kathy accepted the position of technical services assistant. This position allows her to work with the periodicals that she knows, and gave her insight into

the world of acquisitions, particularly the challenge of buying books at the best price. Kathy feels her position is a challenging one, which keeps her interest.

"Working for MSL has also made me an "expert" on subjects for school reports and an advisor for the elementary school my children attend," Kathy relates. She and her husband Lee, who works in the Talking Books Library at MSL, have four children: Chelsea, Cassie, Zion, and Zane.

Kathy says, "I have met some of the most exciting and wonderful coworkers and other people through MSL. If I knew then what I know



Kathy Madison,
Technical Services Assistant

now, I would have gone to library school. One of the best is in Madison, Wisconsin, (I lived only a hundred miles away), not far from the Green Bay Packers and closer to the pandas in the Washington Zoo." Kathy's interest in the Packers and pandas is evident in her office decor and Kathy's green and yellow attire in the fall.